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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography contains a list of 42 recent Chapter Books. The bibliography is divided into the following topics: Adventure-Survival (3 titles); Autobiography-Biography (3 titles); Death (1 title); Easy Readers (8 titles); Good Reading (12 titles); Historical Fiction (10 titles); Mystery (3 titles); Newbery Award Winner, 2000; and Sports (1 title). For each book, the bibliography gives a few themes, the interest level, and the reading level. The bibliography also provides 12 questions to ask when selecting a book and offers suggestions for teaching Chapter Books, along with a list of suggestions for writing, speaking, art, social studies, and reading activities. (NKA)

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Hurrah for Chapter Books

by Glenowyn L. Jones

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PRESENTATION

GIVEN AT MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

I was excited about coming here to share with you some of the books that I have enjoyed reading this winter. I have the pleasure of reading all of the Chapter books that come into the store and assigning themes to them. When a teacher needs a book on a certain topic the list can be brought up on the computer. This is great help to teachers.

Before I share my bibliography with you. I need to explain a few things. First, for each book, I listed a few of the themes where I thought this book might be used. However, I'm sure that you will find others as you read the book. Then I gave the interest level (IL) and reading level (RL) if the company has provided it. If the comment says abt. a certain grade or reading level, I provided it. I used the Smog Readability formula as this one is fast and easy and as reliable as any since all readability formulas are just indications.

Occasionally I have listed a book with an earlier copyright date. This is because I thought that the book was so interesting that children would enjoy it and maybe you had missed it.

Glenwyn Jones

MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION

MARCH 25-28, 2000

Hurrah for Chapter Books

ADVENTURE-SURVIVAL

AN EARLY WINTER Marion Dane Bauer 1999

When eleven year old Tim's grandfather develops Alzheimer's disease, Tim tries to save him by taking him out for a fishing adventure at a pond but the outing turns into a disaster. *(Alzheimer's disease, grandfather) IL: Abt. 5th grade and up*

BRIAN'S RETURN Gary Paulsen 1999

After having survived alone in the wilderness, Brian finds that he can no longer live in the city but must return to the place where he feels he belongs. *(Self-reliance, survival, wilderness) IL: grades 5 and up*

WILLIWAW Tom Bodett 1999

In their father's absence, 13 year old September and her brother Ivan disobey orders by taking the boat out on an Alaska bay where they are caught in a terrifying storm called a williwaw (storms, weather, Alaska, survival)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY-BIOGRAPHY

CHINESE CINDERELLA Adeline Yen 1999

Adeline tells the story of her painful life in China as an unwanted child since she is blamed for her mother's death. *(China, biography, Cinderella) IL: Ages 12 and up*

FRENCHTOWN SUMMER Robert Cormier 1999

A series of vignettes in free verse in which the author reminisces about his life as a twelve-year old boy living in a small town in 1938. *(Poetry) IL: ages 12 and up*

IN MY HANDS Irene Gut Opyke 1999

Irene is a young Polish girl who is forced to work for the Germany army during WW2. She was given a relatively safe job in the officers' dining room. She heard bits and pieces of information which she related to the Jews in the ghetto. She smuggled food and blankets, people and even hid 12 Jews in the basement of the Nazi major's home where she worked. *(biography, WW2, Jews, Poland, Germany, courage, survival) IL: JH-HS RL: JH*

DEATH

GIRL DEATH LEFT BEHIND, THE Lurlene McDaniel 1999

Beth's entire world is taken away from her when a car accident claims the life of every other member of her family. Just when she feels that the situation can not get worse, she has to leave her home to live in another state. *(Death, grief) IL: MS-HS*

EASY READERS

ANDY'S WILD ADVENTURES Gerda Marie Scheidl 1999

While visiting his Aunt Charlotte, Andy is sent out in the garden to draw his aunt a picture. Instead, he draws wild animals which come to life.
IL: AGES 7-9 RL: 2.1 (drawing, animals, aunts)

GHOST IN THE CLASSROOM, THE Gerda Wagener 1999

Tina really wants a cat, but her parents say they have no time for pets. Then one day she opens her lunch box to find a ghost. Could he help her parents change their minds? *(ghosts, behavior, cats, school) IL: ages 7-9 RL: 2.1*

JUNIE B. JONES IS A BEAUTY SHOP GUY Barbara Park 1998

After her first trip to the beauty shop, Junie decides that she wants to work there so she practices on her dog, her bunny slippers and herself with disastrous results. *IL: Ages 6-9, RL: 2.0*

KING BOBBLE Marianne Busser & Hans deBeer 1999

Plump, fun-loving and not too bright, King Bobble and his queen cavort through life wearing wheels instead of crowns. *(humor, easy) IL: 1-4 RL: 2.5*

LAURA'S MA also **LAURA'S PA** Laura Ingalls Wilder 1999

Adapted from the Little House books. *IL: Ages 6-9 RL: Abt. 2nd grade*

OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE, THE Wolfram Handle 1999

Andy doesn't like to play sports. He prefers to study nature. Not even Big Jon, the bully, has dared to cross the bridge to the woods, because Old Jasper lives there and he eats children for breakfast. *IL: ages 7-9 RL: 2.1*

OWEN FOOTE, FRONTIERSMAN Stephanie Greene 1999

Second grader, Owen Foote is looking forward to spending his vacation with his friend Joseph, in their tree house until some bullies visiting his neighbor, Mrs. Gold, threaten to wreck it. *(bullies, easy reading) IL grades1-4 RL Abt high 2nd*

PAINT BRUSH KID, THE Clyde Robert Bulla 1999

Uncle Pancho, a Mexican-American, is about to lose his home. After he tells the children about his life, Gregory decides to paint Uncle's story on the house hoping that this will save it. *IL: Grades 2-4*

GOOD READING

ARMAGEDDON SUMMER Jane Yolen/Bruce Coville 1999

Fourteen year old Marina and sixteen year old Jed accompany their parents, the Believers, a religious cult, to await the end of the world atop a remote mountain, where they try to decide what they themselves believe. Won 4 best book awards.
(cults) IL: MS-HS

BURNING UP Caroline Cooney 1999

Macey researches the history of a burning building near her home. No one will answer her questions. After finding the truth, she realizes that no one can change the past but she is responsible for the present. *(Segregation, Afro-American, death)*

CINDERELLA 2000 Mavis Jukes 1999

Fourteen year old Ashley has her heart set on spending New Year 's Eve at an exclusive country club party with an Almost Boyfriend, but her plan is endangered by her stepmother and her two bratty step-sisters. *(Cinderella,, stepfamilies, New Years) IL: MS*

GIB RIDES HOME Zilpha Kearley Snyder 1999

In the early 1900's, eleven year old Gibson has lived in the Lovell House Home for Orphaned Boys since he was 6 years old. He is farmed out---sent to work on a ranch as unpaid labor until he is 18. This family is full of tensions and secrets about Gib' past.
(orphan, farm, horses,) RL: 5.0, IL: ages 9-12

JUST ELLA Margaret Peterson Haddix 1999

Ella gets her prince. This is the rest of the story, the forever after.
(Cinderella) IL: 5th grade and up

JUST JUICE Karen Hesse 1998

Juice cannot read and as a result hated school. Every chance she gets she skips. When she realized that her father has a hard time keeping a job because he can't read and that they are going to lose their home, she understands that it is necessary for her to attend. *(school, reading)*

LAST LOBO, THE Roland Smith 1999

When Jake, a teenager, takes his grandfather on a visit to their Hopi tribal homeland in Arizona, he finds himself fighting to save an endangered Mexican wolf.
(Wolves, Hopi Indian, American Indians, grandfathers) IL: Ages 10 and up, RL:

PREACHER'S BOY Katherine Paterson 1999

In 1899, 10 year old Robbie, son of a preacher in a small Vermont town, gets himself into all kinds of trouble when he decides to give up being a Christian in order to make the most of his life before the end of the world, predicted to happen New Year's Day, 1900. Based on the boyhood memories of Robert Luther Duffus.
(Vermont, friends, family life) IL: Abt. 5th grade and up

RUNAWAYS Zilpha Keatley Snyder 1999

Twelve year old Dani hates living in a desert town of Rattler Springs, Nevada. So she decides to run away. Her plans are upset by a pesky boy and an imaginative girl who decide to go along. *(Runaways, Single parent, Nevada, abuse) IL: ages 8-12*

SPARROWS IN THE SCULLERY Barbara Brooks Wallace 1999

When Colley is abducted, he is taken to the dreadful Broggin Home for Boys. With the help of his new friends he learns to survive. *(Orphans, survival) IL: ages 8-12*

SWAMP K. Duey/K.A. Bale 1999

No one in the Cajun community is willing to search for Paul and his brothers who are lost in the bayou. But Paul has always been good to Lily so she refuses to turn her back on him when his life is in danger. *(Louisiana, survival) IL: Ages 8-12*

VIRTUALLY PERFECT Dan Gutman 1999

Yip uses his father's new software and makes a computer simulation of a boy his age. The creation breaks out of the cyberspace into the real world and makes problem for Yip. (computers, Science fiction) *IL: ages 8-12 years*

HISTORICAL FICTION

AT HER MAJESTY'S REQUEST Walter Dean Myers 1999

Biography of an African Princess who is taken to England, where Queen Victoria sees to her up-bringing. She lives there until she marries an African Missionary. *(Africa, slavery, Great Britain, Biography)*

DEAR AMERICA SERIES Various authors 1999

The Girl who Chased Away Sorrow--a Navajo girl
Journal of Sean Sultan--Transcontinental railroad
The Journal of Ben Uchida --Mirror Lake Internment camp-1942
Light in the Storm--Civil War Diary
Color Me Dark--Migration north. 1919

HOOTBEATS OF DANGER Holly Hughes 1999

In 1860, Annie who lives at the Red Butts Pony Express station in the Nebraska Territory, asks Billy Cody to help her find the person who is responsible for sabotaging her favorite pony, Magpie. *(Pioneer life, Wild Bill Cody, mystery, Pony express) IL: Ages 10 and up*

FRIENDS Gloria Whelan 1999

This story takes place in the southern part of Michigan. A runaway slave and his family are accepted in the community. When Slave Catchers arrive to return the slave to the Southern owner, the community bands together to get the family to Canada. *(Slavery, Michigan Author, Michigan, Afro-American)*

GOOD LIAR Gregory Maquire 1999

Now an old man living in the U.S., Marcel recalls his childhood in German-occupied France during WW2. *(WW2, brothers, friendship, Jews, Germany, France)*

DAUGHTER OF LIBERTY Robert Quackenbush 1999

While she was out riding, Wyn, a teenage girl, almost ran over a stranger who happens to be General George Washington. The British army has run Washington out of the American Headquarters so quickly that he didn't have time to pick up important papers. Wyn volunteers to get them for him. Based on fact. *(History, Revolution War, Washington) IL ages 7-9, RL grade 3*

LETTER TO MRS. ROOSEVELT C.Coco De Young 1999

To fulfill a class assignment, 12 year old Margo writes to Eleanor Roosevelt asking for help to save her family's home during the Great Depression . Story is true, characters names are not. *(depression, family, school, Am. history)*

SARNY Gary Paulsen 1999

This is a companion book to NIGHTJOHN. Sarny, a young slave, was taught to read by Nightjohn. Her story starts when she leaves the plantation in the last days of the Civil War to search for her sold-away children. She finds them and passed the gift of reading on to new generations. *(Afro-American, slavery, education) IL: grades 3 and up*

SILENT THUNDER Andrea Davis Pinkney 1999

In 1862, eleven year old Sunner and thirteen-year-old brother Rosco take turns describing the life on a Virginia plantation where they are slaves and how they are affected by the Civil War. *(Civil War, slavery, plantations, Virginia) IL: ages 9-12*

SUMMER SOLDIERS Susan Hart Lindquist 1999

After his father goes off to war during the summer of 1918, 11 year old Joe, along with his friends, contend with the town bullies and tries to figure out the meaning of courage. *(WW1, bullies) IL: MS*

MYSTERY

HUSH LITTLE BABY Caroline Cooney 1999

When a baby is thrust into Kit's arms, she is astonished. She thinks that Dusty, her ex-stepmother, will come back for it. But she soon realizes that she is wrong. Whose baby is it? Who is the father? And why is it here with her? *(mystery, stepparent) IL: MS-HS*

I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM Peg Kehret 1999

Thirteen year old, Ginger becomes the target for a disturbed woman who thinks that Ginger is her daughter. She also has information that will clear a teacher of losing his teaching job. *(Courage, fear, school, family) IL: 6th grade and up*

VOICES AT WHISPER BEND Katherine Ayres 1999

In their town, in 1942, 12 year old Charlotte and her classmates collect scrap iron for the war effort only to have it disappear from the school basement. *(WW2, mystery, Pennsylvania,) IL: Ages 10 years and up*

NEWBERY AWARD WINNER-2000

BUD, NOT BUDDY Christopher Paul Curtis 1999

In 1936, in Flint, Michigan, times are hard but 10 year old Bud had something going for him. He had a suitcase full of secret things. His mamma never told him who his father was but left some clues that might lead him to his father. *(Runaways, depression ERA, Afro-Americans) IL: Ages 9-12*

SPORTS

FULL COURT FEVER Fred Bowen 1998

With help from a new student and the inspiration from a magazine article, the seventh grade basketball team hopes to overcome their shortness to win from the tall eighth graders. Good for the younger sports enthusiasts. *(Basketball) IL: grades 4-7*

IL: Interest level RL: Reading level MS: Middle school HS: high school

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED WHEN SELECTING A BOOK

1. After reading the first chapter, did you want to continue ?
2. Is the plot easy to follow**?**
3. Would your children enjoy this book?
4. Is there objectionable language in the book?
5. How could this book be used in the classroom? As a read-a-loud. group, or for fun?
6. Does the topic fit in the curriculum? Will it lend itself to activities that will help meet the State Standards?
7. At what grade level is it appropriate?
8. Using an educated guess, on what grade level is the book written?
9. Does the interest level correspond with the interests of your students?
10. Is the book attractive? What about the size of the print?
11. Can your students can handle the size of the book ?
12. In addition to many of the above, answer these questions when selecting non-fiction.
    Is the information accurate?
    Does the author have the background to write on this topic?
    Does it make a distinction between fact and fiction?
    Are there appropriate illustrations, charts, and drawings?
    If it is a biography, does it give both strengths and weaknesses of the character?

Prepared by: Glenowyn Jones, Reading/Sales Consultant, Keith Distributors, Flint, Michigan

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING CHAPTER BOOKS

WRITING

Write: a "what if" situation for one of the characters
about your favorite character and tell why
an additional chapter or a new ending for the story
ads, commercials or commercial jingles for the book
an "If I were there" about the events of the story
a new ending for the book
a portion of the story from a different point of view
a prediction on how the story will end
a song by changing the words of a well known one
newspaper articles. Combine them to make a class newspaper
to a character in the book and have a partner representing the character answer or have two book characters write each other
poetry such as diamente', couplets, and cinquain
tombstone epitaphs
or E-Mail the author

Keep a diary for a character or write "Dear Ann Landers" letters
Make a dictionary of new words and/or idioms
Write and perform a television play or a radio broadcast of a chapter

SPEAKING

Debate the pros and cons of a character's actions
Develop vocabulary by having a "new word" day
Do live interviews with the author via Internet
Have a panel discussion about the book
Role play interviews with characters in the book

ART

Make bookmarks, posters, mobiles, collages, dioramas and book jackets
Make a bulletin board display
Make up a logo, a symbol for the book, a travel brochure for the setting, or a comic strip based on the book
Make puppets and write dialogue for them
Sell the book by developing a bumper sticker, a button or a T-shirt

SOCIAL STUDIES

Discuss how the story would change if it had taken place 100 years ago?
Develop a map, (ex: the underground railroad)
Research the foods of the country or the era. Prepare for class.
Research the songs and dances from the country where the story takes place.
Have a jury trial with a judge, jury, etc. over the actions of a character.
Interview family or community members who have lived where story takes place or had a similar experiences
Develop a time line for the story (ex. historical fiction)
Research what was happening in the world when the story takes place
Compare a character to yourself or to the way we live today

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READING

Allow students to create their own test over the book
Compare to other books with a similar topic.
Develop a character map
Develop story maps showing cause and effect, sequence, facts and details
Do a comparison/contrast chart (Venn diagram) of the characters
Read the story for the blind